

Toxics Link study Finds a Long Road to Circularity in India's E-waste EPR Model

New Delhi, February 19, 2026: A new report by an environmental group, **Toxics Link** reveals significant structural gaps in India's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework for e-waste. The study, titled "*Long Road to Circularity*," warns that while the EPR model is a cornerstone of waste management, it currently fails to capture a vast range of critical minerals essential for India's green transition.

The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework mandates the recovery of only four metals—gold, copper, iron, and aluminium—leaving critical metals untapped. A vast range of valuable and critical metals, including neodymium, dysprosium, and lithium, are essential to strengthening resource security but are currently overlooked and lost.

In the light of these concerns the report examines current e-waste regulations and highlights critical challenges limiting its effective implementation. The report also underscores persistent issues, including low consumer awareness, poor financial traceability of e-waste flow and limited monitoring capacities. The study identifies several operational gaps. Key findings from the report include:

- The EPR portal currently lacks data on total market players and leaves small-scale manufacturers, online sellers, and grey-market importers outside the system.
- Information regarding non-compliance penalties and environmental compensation remains unavailable for the 2023–24 and 2024–25 fiscal years.
- Detailed data is accessible only to operators, resulting in limited public visibility into system performance.
- The current regulation does not identify and place responsibility on any individual stakeholder for setting up of collection centers, thus making it extremely difficult for the consumers to deposit their waste in the authorised e-waste stream.
- No incentive to producers, and manufacturers adopting "green" product designs or for recyclers implementing high-quality, advanced recovery processes.

“While Extended Producer Responsibility is a cornerstone of India's e-waste management framework, the principle alone cannot deliver the desired outcomes. It must be complemented by an effective and robust waste collection system, integrating informal sector and the development of high-tech recycling facilities along with public awareness for advancing system transparency”

Satish Sinha, Associate Director, Toxics Link

The report suggests the following key recommendations to plug some of the gaps in the present system:

- Enhance system accountability and transparency by making data accessible to the public.
- Strengthen reverse supply chains and collection mechanisms to streamline the flow of e-waste.
- Expand consumer awareness on the advantages of e-waste recycling and the importance of using authorised collection channels.
- Integrate the informal sector into the e-waste management ecosystem.

Together, these measures can help build a stronger and more effective e-waste management system.

About Toxics Link

Toxics Link is an Indian environmental research and advocacy organisation set up in 1996, engaged in disseminating information to help strengthen the campaign against toxics pollution, provide cleaner alternatives, and bring together groups and people affected by this problem. Toxics Link's Mission Statement - "Working together for environmental justice and freedom from toxins."

More at: www.toxicslink.org

For more information, please contact:

Satish Sinha: +91 9811902702, satish@toxicslink.org

Swati Vishan: +91 9871610390, swati@toxicslink.org